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ANNUAL

REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1951

City of Peterborough

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CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

I

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR
1951

To The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen
and Councillors of the City of Peterborough.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the City for the year 1951.

A perusal of that section of the Report dealing with vital statistics will rightly indicate to you that Peterborough compares well with the country as a whole, and whilst the fact that our birth rate is below the National figure is to some degree disappointing it is only symptomatic of the progressive decline in this index, following the higher figures of immediate post-war years, which is to be found all over the country. It is satisfying to note that the death rate for the City and the Infantile Mortality Rate are both below corresponding figures for England and Wales and for Towns of comparable size. Too much attention should not be paid to the Maternal Mortality Rate, as statistical comparisons have little, if any value, when figures, as in this instance, are so small (one case only)

The Housing problem continues to be acute, but comparative figures for 1949, 1950 and 1951 show that while in 1950 the list of waiting applicants had increased on the previous year's figures, in 1951 the position had begun to improve and more families were housed than new applicants added to the list. This is eminently satisfactory because the solution of so many present day problems - sociological, psychiatric and purely medical - lies in a healthy, secure home environment to attain to which the first essential is a decent house. One could wish, however, to see even more rapid progress in this direction.

I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness for the help received in the compilation of this Report to the City Engineer, the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his Department, the City Housing Manager, the Chief Constable of the Peterborough Combined Police Force, for information relating to road fatalities in the City, and to Mr. E.H. Colman for particulars of the Annual Rainfall.

As you will already have noticed, this Report reaches you in unfamiliar format and I should like to express my thanks to the clerical staff of both the Medical Officer's and Sanitary Inspector's Departments for the work they have done to produce a Report which is wholly acceptable to the eye and the cost of which weighs less heavily on the ratepayer's pocket.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

W. D. Shirley

Health Department,
Town Hall,
Peterborough,
August, 1952.

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1951

P U B L I C H E A L T H C O M M I T T E E
(1st January - 8th May, 1951)

Chairman - Alderman H.J. Farrow.

Vice-Chairman - Councillor R.W. North.

THE MAYOR (Councillor H.R. Horrell) (ex-officio)
THE CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMITTEE (ex-officio)
Councillor J.E. Swain.
Councillor A.W. Viney, M.B.E.
Councillor Mrs. M. Wood.
Councillor Mrs. G.M. Benstead.
Councillor G.A. Smith.
Councillor G.R. Chamberlain.
Councillor A.L. Robinson, M.B.E.
Councillor J.W. Fowler.
Councillor Mrs. E.O. Martin.

After the Municipal Elections in May the composition of the Committee remained the same, except that Councillor Chamberlain became Mayor, but the ex-Mayor, Councillor Horrell, retained his membership of the Committee.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

D.G. CRAWSHAW, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.C.H., D.P.H.
(Resigned 30th November, 1951)

HENRIETTA YOUNG, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.
(Temporary appointment from 1st December, 1951)

W.D. SWINNEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed 19th November, 1951, but had not assumed duties before the end of the year.)

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1951

Area of City in acres	10,022
Population :- Preliminary Report, Census 1951	53,412
Registrar-General's Estimate, Mid. 1951.	53,060Ø
do. do. Mid. 1950.	54,700
Density of Population, Persons per acre	5.29
Number of Inhabited Houses, End of 1951.	15,900(approx
do. do. End of 1950	15,597
Housing Density, Houses per acre	1.58
Mean number of occupants per house	3.33
Rateable Value as at 1st October, 1951.	£360,036
Product of a Penny Rate	£1,451 7s. 2d.

Ø Statistics in this Report are based on this estimate of resident population.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1951

Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	384	346	730
Illegitimate	23	32	55
Total Live Births	407	378	785

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population : 14.79

Still Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	12	8	20
Illegitimate	0	1	1
Total Still Births	12	9	21

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births : 26.05

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 0.39

Total Birth Rate (Live and Still) per 1,000 population 15.19

(Comparability factor , 1.00)

Deaths.

Male	Female	Total
317	321	638

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population : 12.02

Index Death Rate per 1,000 population : 11.77
(Comparability factor, 0.98)

Mean Age at Death : 68.09 years.

Maternal Mortality.

(Number of women dying as a result of childbirth :- Heading No. 30 in the Registrar-General's Short List)

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total Births
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	1	1.24

Infantile Mortality.

(Deaths of infants under one year of age)

Male	Female	Total
10	9	19

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births : 24.20

Neonatal Mortality.

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age)

Male	Female	Total
8	3	11

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births : 14.01

OTHER STATISTICS, 1951.

Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0
" " Coronary Disease, Angina (all ages)...	64
" " Other Cardiac Conditions, "	117
" " Malignant Neoplasm, "	93
" " Measles, "	0
" " Whooping Cough, "	0

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1951.

Figures for the City of Peterborough, and where available, for England and Wales, and 148 Smaller Towns having populations of between 25,000 and 50,000 at the 1931 Census.

	City of Peterborough		England & Wales	148 Smaller Towns.
	Nos.	Rates per 1,000 Population		
BIRTHS :-				
Live	785	14.79	15.5	16.7
Still	21	0.39	0.36	0.38
DEATHS :-				
All causes	638	11.77	12.5	12.5
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0	0.00	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	15	0.29	0.31	0.31
Influenza	10	0.18	0.38	0.38
Smallpox	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. Polioencephalitis)	0	0.00	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia	34	0.64	0.61	0.63
NOTIFICATIONS :-				
Typhoid Fever	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0.00	0.02	0.02
Meningococcal Infection	0	0.00	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever	36	0.67	1.11	1.20
Whooping Cough	398	7.50	3.87	4.00
Diphtheria	0	0.00	0.02	0.03
Erysipelas	2	0.03	0.14	0.12
Smallpox	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	108	2.03	14.07	14.82
Pneumonia	21	0.39	0.99	0.96
Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. Polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0	0.00	0.03	0.03
Non-Paralytic	0	0.00	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning	33	0.62	0.13	0.08
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
MORTALITY:-				
Infant Deaths under one year of age	19	24.20	29.60	27.60
Infant Deaths under four weeks of age	11	14.01	-	-
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births			
Women dying as a result of childbirth	1	1.24	0.79	-
NOTIFICATIONS :-				
Peurperal Fever & Pyrexia	35	43.42	10.66	8.08

YEARS 1946 - 1950

The following table gives certain annual mean statistics for the first post-war quinquennium, 1946-1950, for the City of Peterborough and for comparison, corresponding figures for England and Wales and for 148 Towns with populations of 25,000 - 50,000 at the 1931 census.

	City of Peterborough	England & Wales	148 Smaller Towns.
	Annual Mean Rates per 1,000 Population, 1946 - 1950		
BIRTHS :-			
Live	16.52	13.00	19.48
Still	0.39	0.44	0.46
DEATHS :-			
All causes	11.62	11.52	11.50
NOTIFICATIONS :-			
Scarlet Fever	1.362	1.522	1.592
Diphtheria	0.062	0.110	0.120
Typhoid	0.000	0.008	0.006
Pneumonia	0.616	0.782	0.656
Measles	10.438	8.002	7.932
Whooping Cough	2.690	2.782	2.584
	Annual Mean Rates per 1,000 Live Births, 1946 - 1950		
INFANT MORTALITY :-			
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	30.92	35.96	32.88
	Annual Mean Rates per 1,000 Total Births, 1946 - 1950		
MATERNAL MORTALITY :-			
Deaths of Women as a result of childbirth	0.87	1.03	-

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH 1951

Causes of Death as given in the Registrar-General's Short List.	Numbers. M	F	Total.	Rates per 1,000 pop.	Rates per 1,000 Deaths
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	13	1	14	0.263	21.93
Tuberculosis, other	-	1	1	0.018	1.56
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0	0.000	0.00
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0.000	0.00
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0.000	0.00
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0	0.000	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0.000	0.00
Measles	0	0	0	0.000	0.00
Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	-	1	0.018	1.56
Malignant Neoplasm; stomach	9	7	16	0.300	25.07
Malignant Neoplasm; lung, bronchus	7	4	11	0.206	17.23
Malignant Neoplasm; breast	-	5	5	0.180+	15.57+
Malignant Neoplasm; uterus	-	3	3	0.108+	9.34+
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	26	28	54	1.015	84.61
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	2	4	0.752	6.26
Diabetes	1	2	3	0.554	4.70
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	42	66	108	2.030	169.23
Coronary Disease, angina	36	28	64	1.203	100.28
Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	7	12	0.225	18.80
Other heart disease	45	60	105	1.974	164.53
Other circulatory disease	16	8	24	0.451	37.60
Influenza	4	6	10	0.188	15.67
Pneumonia	10	24	34	0.639	53.27
Bronchitis	29	16	45	0.846	70.51
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	0	3	0.056	4.70
Ulcer of the stomach & duodenum	7	2	9	0.169	14.10
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	3	1	4	0.075	6.26
Nephritis & Nephrosis	3	7	10	0.188	15.67
Hyperplasia of Prostate	14	-	14	0.540Ø	44.15Ø
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1	0.036+	3.11+
Congenital malformations	2	4	6	0.112	9.40
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	25	25	50	0.940	78.35
Motor vehicle accidents	3	3	6	0.112	9.40
All other accidents	6	7	13	0.244	20.37
Suicide	4	3	7	0.131	10.96
Homicide & operations of war	1	-	1	0.018	1.56
TOTALS	317	321	638	—	—

\+ Rates per 1,000 estimated female population and per 1,000 female deaths.

Ø Rates per 1,000 estimated male population and per 1,000 male deaths.

COMMENTARY ON VITAL STATISTICS 1951

Birth Rates

The tendancy to a continuation of a lower birth rate than in immediate post-war years continues, not only in Peterborough but throughout the country as a whole. The local 1951 figure of 14.79 live births per 1,000 population is almost identical with the 14.8 of the previous year, but is below the corresponding figures for England and Wales (15.5) and 148 smaller towns (16.7). This latter figure has, as in Peterborough, remained constant in the last two years, while the England and Wales index has dropped from 15.8 in 1950.

The Peterborough still birth rate of 0.39 has increased from 0.29 in the preceding years and compares with 0.36 for England and Wales and 0.38 for 148 smaller towns.

Post-war Annual Birth Rates, City of Peterborough:
Births per 1,000 Population

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Live Births	19.00	17.43	16.40	15.00	14.8	14.79
Still Births	0.39	0.46	0.47	0.35	0.29	0.39

Death Rate

11.77 deaths per 1,000 population is a figure which compares favourably with that of 12.5 for England and Wales and for 148 smaller towns. Corresponding 1950 figures were, for Peterborough, 11.9, and for England and Wales and smaller towns, 11.6.

Of the 638 total deaths - 317 male and 321 female - the highest proportion resulted from some manifestation of circulatory system disease which, in its various aspects, accounted for 289 deaths. In 1950, 297 out of 649 total deaths were thus attributed.

Malignant disease in different sites was responsible for 93 deaths and if 10 deaths from influenza be included, diseases of the respiratory system accounted for 92 deaths. In 1950 there were 107 deaths resulting from malignant pathology and 69, including 2 influenza deaths, from diseases of the respiratory system. The larger figure for 1951 in this latter category is chiefly due to an increase in deaths from Bronchitis, which rose to 45 from 17 in the preceding twelve months.

Accidental deaths totalled 19, six of these being the result of road accidents, of which 5 occurred within the City boundary. In two of these fatalities the victims were pedestrians who crossed the road in front of motor vehicles : in the third accident a pedestrian walked into a pedal cyclist, receiving fatal injuries, and in the remaining two cases pedal cyclists lost their lives through being trapped between an articulated lorry and a barrier, and by losing control of a cycle and colliding with a van. The oldest victim of a road accidental death was 78 years, the youngest 41 years. Regrettable though these road accidents undoubtedly are, one must reflect that fatal accidents for other reasons were twice as frequent and that Road Safety campaigns alone are not all that is necessary to reduce the wastage of human life from accidental causes.

It is gratifying to be able to report that there were no deaths from common infectious diseases nor from the less common but more dangerous notifiable conditions, Meningococcal infection (Cerebro Spinal Fever) and acute Poliomyelitis which respectively caused 1 and 2 deaths in 1950. There have been no Diphtheria deaths in the City for six years.

Maternal Mortality Rate

One death under this heading occurred during the year compared with nil in the preceding year; the specific cause of death being embolism, air having gained access to the circulation via the uterine tissues.

There have been 5 Maternal deaths since 1945.

Infantile Mortality Rate

A total of 19 infants under one year of age died during 1951. This figure is the same as for 1950, but because of the smaller number of births, it gives a slightly higher Infantile Mortality Rate of 24.2 per 1,000 live births. The Rate for the whole country is 29.6, and for 148 smaller towns, 27.6, so that the City figure can, by comparison, be regarded as satisfactory.

The following are the Rates in Peterborough for the post-war years, expressed as deaths per 1,000 live births.

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
36.0	31.6	35.6	28.0	23.4	24.2

The causes of death in these nineteen cases were as follows :-

Congenital abnormality	5
Birth injury	1
Acute Broncho-pneumonia & Bronchitis.. ...	6
Excessive prematurity	3
Haemorrhagic Disease of the New Born (Rh. factor)	1
Pericarditis	1
Toxaemia associated with maternal eclampsia	1
Accidental Death: Asphyxia due to inhalation of regurgitated milk	1

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

Included in the foregoing 19 deaths are 11 which occurred in the first four weeks of life, giving a Neo-Natal Mortality Rate of 14.01 per 1,000 live births. No figure for England and Wales is available for purposes of comparison.

Neo-Natal deaths in 1950 were 10 in 811 live births.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1951

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases Notified													Total Deaths	Hospital	
	Total cases at all ages	Age Periods - Years													Total cases removed to hospital from the district	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over			
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	36	-	-	-	4	4	25	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	16	-
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or typhoid fever (excluding paratyphoid) ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding rubella) ...	108	7	14	16	12	20	34	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-
Whooping cough	398	21	45	62	52	63	148	3	-	3	-	-	1	-	6	-
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)...	21	-	-	1	-	-	2	3	-	3	3	4	5	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	29	2	-	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis:-																
(1) Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(2) Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		1	2	5	24	-	2	-

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever

Notifications of this disease continued to decrease, the total of 36 cases comparing favourably with the figures of 58 cases in 1950 and 129 in 1949 and representing an incidence for the year of 0.67 per 1,000 population compared with an index of 1.11 for England and Wales.

The 16 cases admitted to hospital were so dealt with, not because of clinical need but because home circumstances precluded the possibility of reasonably satisfactory isolation. This condition shows an increasing tendancy to become a much milder illness than in the past and the classical case of Scarlet Fever is nowadays a rarity. This is not entirely due to the effectiveness of modern methods of treatment: the infecting organism has lost much of its virulence.

Measles

After the epidemic year of 1950, with 1,120 notified cases, the 108 cases of 1951 came as a welcome change, not unexpected, as Measles tends to bienniel epidemicity.

The attack rate was 2.03 cases per 1,000 population and the corresponding figure for England and Wales, 14.07.

It is worthy of note that 69 cases occurred in children below school age: 34 in children during their first year of school life and only 5 cases in higher age groups.

That no deaths from Measles were registered during the year is a matter for satisfaction in view of the incidence of this disease in young children.

Whooping Cough

With 398 cases, 1951 showed a substantial increase in Whooping Cough when compared with the 88 cases of the preceding year. The incidence, 7.50 cases per 1,000 population is almost double that of England and Wales (3.87).

As with Measles, it is the younger children who bear the brunt of this disease, as reference to the tabulated infectious disease statistics shows, and it is therefore all the more satisfactory to note that no case had a fatal outcome.

Much research is proceeding at present to perfect a reliable vaccine against Whooping Cough and it seems reasonably to be expected that in the not too distant future Whooping Cough will go the way of Diphtheria in notification lists.

Pneumonia (Primary & Influenzal)

21 cases of this notifiable condition occurred during the year compared with 32 in 1950 and the case incidence of 0.39 per 1,000 population is well below the national figure of 0.99.

There was one Pneumonia death, the only death from a notifiable disease during 1951.

Puerperal Pyrexia

In 1950 3 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified: in 1951 notifications totalled 35. At first sight this would appear to be a most unsatisfactory state of affairs but in fact it is not so.

Until 31st July, 1951 Puerperal Pyrexia was notified under the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1939, for which purpose the condition was defined as :-

> "Any febrile condition occurring in a woman within 21 days after childbirth or miscarriage in which a temperature of 100.4°F or more has been sustained during a period of twenty-four hours or has recurred during that period."

On 1st August, 1951, the foregoing Regulations were superseded by the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951, which defined the condition as :-

> "Any febrile condition occurring in a woman in whom a temperature of 100.4°F or more has occurred within fourteen days after childbirth or miscarriage."

It will be seen that the effect of the new Regulations is to make notifiable many cases which previously would not have come to the Health Department's notice, as even one temperature reading of 100.4, irrespective of how long it is maintained, now means a notification. The fact that the relative period has been reduced in the 1951 Regulations from 21 days to 14 exercises but little effect as by far the greater number of notifications refer to occurrences within a week of parturition.

The result of the application of the new Regulations is reflected in notifications received. Only 4 cases were notified prior to 1st August, the remaining 31 occurring between that date and the end of the year.

Erysipelas

2 cases were notified compared with 6 in 1950.

Food Poisoning

33 cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. These occurred as an institutional outbreak involving 30 notified cases and, in addition, there were 3 sporadic, unrelated cases. There were no deaths from food poisoning.

In the matter of the institutional outbreak, although 30 cases were notified, there were actually 70 persons who exhibited symptoms of a greater or lesser degree of severity out of a total of some 235 persons at risk. The symptoms manifest were on the whole mild and cleared up within twenty-four hours.

At the time of investigation into this outbreak none of the food which might reasonably have been suspect was available for laboratory examination and examination of specimens from affected persons failed to reveal the presence of food poisoning organisms. Bacteriological examination of nasal and aural swabs, and of a specimen of faeces from the chief cook of the institution, and the examination of a nasal swab taken from the assistant cook, all showed the presence of coagulase positive staphylococcus aureus and it seemed highly probable that the outbreak was due to poisoning caused by staphylococcal toxin, with, as contributory factors, the use of chipped enamel food containers, and the tendancy, to facilitate kitchen routine, of preparing food a day in advance of that on which it was to be eaten.

The 3 separate cases to be investigated gave, in 2 cases, inconclusive results. No suspected food was available at the time the notifications were received and bacteriological examination of specimens from the patients revealed no pathogenic organisms. In the third case the presence of salmonella typhi-murium was demonstrated in the gastro-intestinal tract, but as the patient had begun to exhibit symptoms while holidaying away from Peterborough no local investigations had any point.

Other Notifiable Diseases

For the fourth successive year no case of Diphtheria occurred in the City, a justifiable cause for satisfaction but one which may not continue from year to year if the tendancy, experienced over the country as a whole, for parents to think that Diphtheria is completely a thing of the past and that Diphtheria inoculation is no longer an essential precaution, is not checked. It must be fully realised by all parents that it is only a high immunisation rate in the child population which keeps Diphtheria at bay and that every unimmunised baby is a weakening of the defences.

Unless a family doctor advises that there are medical grounds for delaying inoculation, every child should be immunised at the age of eight months and certainly before the first birthday, and an additional reinforcing dose given before first attending school. It is not too much to state that all parents who do not have this done are failing in their duties, not only to their own children, but to the collective health of all the child population.

It is pleasing to record that no cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in 1951, as there were 14 in the previous year and 10 in 1949.

There has now been no case of Meningococcal Infection (Cerebro-spinal Fever) since 1947, when 1 case occurred.

On 22nd June, 1951, the Public Health (Leprosy) Regulations, making Leprosy notifiable, came into force with the object of bringing to treatment or isolating the small but appreciable number of patients requiring such provision. Notification is made not to the Medical Officer of Health, but direct from the practitioner to the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, with the idea of ensuring the greatest secrecy in dealing with this disease, still associated in the public mind with much unjustified fear and dread: a small stock of Notification forms for Leprosy is held in the City Health Department and general practitioners know these to be available if required. None have been requested.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1951

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years								
0—	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1—	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5—	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10—	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15—	2	6	2	-	-	-	-	1
20—	5	7	-	1	-	-	-	-
25—	8	5	1	-	1	-	-	-
35—	7	4	-	-	4	-	-	-
45—	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55—	3	-	1	-	6	-	-	-
65 and upwards	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
Totals 1951	36	25	4	1	13	1	-	1
Totals 1950	43	30	1	-	8	6	-	-

There was a decrease of 12 cases in notifications of Respiratory Tuberculosis during the year, this being evenly distributed between the sexes, and an increase of 4 cases of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis, compared with 1950. 2 cases had not been notified prior to death.

The disparity between 13 male deaths and 1 female death is difficult to account for. In 1950 corresponding figures were 8 and 6, and in 1949, 7 and 5, which shows a much more normal proportion and distribution. The occupations of those males dying of Tuberculosis were many and varied and cannot be held to have been specifically influencing factors.

Tuberculosis Register - 1951

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
No. on Register 1/1/1951	114	92	6	6
Notified during 1951	36	25	4	1
Removed during 1951	28	14	2	1
No. on Register 31/12/1951	122	103	8	6

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

Housing

Statistics

No. of New Houses erected during 1951 :-

(i) By the City Council	268
(ii) By other bodies or persons	32
Total	300

Types of New Housing accommodation comprising (i), above :-

(a) Houses	152
(b) Flats for single persons (spinster or widow)	24
(c) Bungalows for aged persons	12
(d) Aluminium Bungalows for Key Workers	80
Total	268

Additional Housing Accommodation made available by the City Council :-

(a) By conversion of ex-army accommodation	23 Units
(b) By conversion into flats of Requisitioned Property	6 Flats
Total	29

Total housing units becoming available during the year, excluding private building 297

In addition to the letting of the above 297 properties, 110 families were housed in re-let Council accommodation of all types, this figure including 73 families, already housed by the Council, who were transferred to larger type Council houses because of over-crowding of their original accommodation.

Nett number of family units housed, 1951 334

(" " " " " " , 1950 224)

In the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector will be found details of inspections, defects discovered and remedied, and informal and statutory action taken with regard to housing during the year.

Overcrowding

The extent of statutory overcrowding existing in the City could be ascertained only by a detailed house-to-house survey such as has been now completed in most Rural Districts but which Urban Authorities have not yet been bound to undertake. The present Sanitary Inspectorate Staff would be inadequate for such a survey which, if to be of maximum informative usefulness, should not be limited solely to overcrowding aspects, but should give a comprehensive word-picture of every house in the City and would, therefore, be a most time-consuming undertaking, although undoubtedly well worthwhile.

It would seem possible, however, that when final reports on the 1951 Census come to hand much valuable information concerning social circumstances and housing conditions in the areas of individual Local Authorities may be available with a degree of detail not ascertained by any previous census.

Known overcrowding remedied during the year can be summarised as under :-

Families re-housed in prefabs and permanent houses from overcrowded circumstances ...	87
Transferred from hutted accommodation to permanent houses	23
Housed in hutted accommodation	43
Transferred from existing Council Houses and prefabs to larger type houses	55
Total, 1951	208
(Total, 1950	133)

Housing Requirements

The following table analyses the housing needs of applicants on the City Housing Register at 31st December, 1951:-

Category	Distribution according to number of children											Totals
	S.P.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Family Houses, Ex-Forces	-	454	386	218	58	12	5	-	-	1	-	1134
Family Houses, Civilian	-	340	232	133	56	17	5	1	-	-	1	785
Single Persons	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67
Old Couples	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Sub-totals	67	829	618	351	114	29	10	1	-	1	1	2021

A total of 2,021 applicants thus await re-housing, but formidable although this figure may be, it does show a marked improvement on the corresponding figure, 2,225, of a year before, which was an increase, not a decrease, of 251 on the previous year, 1949.

At the end of 1951, 5,826 persons - as opposed to individual applicants - were waiting for a Council house, compared with the figure of 6,582 at the end of 1950.

During 1951, the City Housing Manager paid 684 formal visits to investigate and assess the housing circumstances of applicants on the Waiting List.

Housing Schemes : Progress

Name of Scheme	Ultimate Development in Housing Units	Units Completed by December, 1951
Dogsthorpe/Newark Estate	746	722
Dogsthorpe North Estate	700 (approx)	Nil
Crown Street Estate	86	46
Eastfield Estate	300 (approx)	36
Mountsteven Ave. Estate	54	Nil
Welland Close Aluminium Bungalow Estate	80	80

Allocation of Council Houses

It must be the melancholy experience of almost every Medical Officer of Health to realize that no matter with what care his Local Authority elaborates plans for the equable distribution of the houses at its disposal there must inevitably be disappointed applicants and will continue to be, until all are housed. It is impossible to create a "points scheme" which does not from time to time give rise to anomalies, but the system in operation in the City functions with a degree of fairness which, while not perhaps diminishing the disappointment of the temporarily unsuccessful applicant, - and it is a temporary condition: all will eventually be housed - certainly gives no grounds for the aggrieved feelings of unjust treatment, which are sometimes exhibited. One is bound to reflect that those who harbour and give expression to such emotions are in fact indicating their desire to benefit from unjust treatment of the claims of others, while one must also realize that the housing needs of many of them are so great as to distort their judgement, particularly when they cannot know the full details of the circumstances of other applicants, who appear to them to have received unduly favourable consideration.

It is not appropriate here to enter into a detailed description of the Points Scheme, but it is perhaps not out of place to indicate the many factors which are considered in respect of each and every housing applicant. These may be enumerated as follows :-

1. Residential & Employment qualifications.
2. Shared accommodation.
3. Serious ill health.
4. Bedroom deficiency.
5. Overcrowding as a whole
6. Forces or Merchant Navy Service in either World War .
7. Direction from Peterborough on Civil Defence or War Industry 1941-45.
8. Disablement.
9. Broken families.
10. Conditions of present house.
11. Date of Registration.
12. Any special claims for consideration.

It is also of interest to note that the waiting list comprises two sections, Ex-forces applicants and Civilian applicants, and that houses are allocated on a pro-rata basis, according to the numbers of each type of applicant on the waiting list at the time. These figures are periodically reviewed and the composition of the waiting list is immediately reflected in the proportion of tenancies allotted to each section.

Water Supply

A detailed description of the Corporation's Main Water Supply was given in this Report for the year 1950 and since then there has been no change in the system and no extension of sources of supply.

During the year under consideration 28 Samples of Raw (pre-chlorination) Water and 6 Samples of Treated (post-chlorination) Water have been submitted to the Council's Public Analyst and Consulting Chemist for both bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. In respect of all samples the report was received that the water was of suitable bacteriological and chemical purity for public use. The water has no plumbo solvent action.

The water undertaking continues to supply a daily quantity of some 3.5 million gallons but has demonstrated its capacity to step up this figure to 5.25 millions in drought periods of peak demand.

Within the City boundary 15,329 dwellings with an estimated population of 51,155 receive a direct water supply by tap(s) in the home: 555 dwellings, occupied by 1,852 persons have a supply by standpipes and 16 dwellings in which live approximately 53 people have a private supply from wells and springs. In 1950, 568 houses had a standpipe supply. The Council's undertaking continues to afford bulk supplies to neighbouring authorities.

Appended are reports of bacteriological and chemical analysis of Raw and Treated Water, which are representative of all similar reports received during the year.

"Analysis of a Sample of Raw Water taken on 8th June, 1951

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance: Very faint opalescence with very few mineral particles.
Turbidity: Less than 3.

Colour: Filtered: Nil		Odour: Nil	
pH	7.3	Free Carbon Dioxide	17
Electric Conductivity	610	Total Solids	410
Chlorine present as Chloride	24	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	240
Hardness: Total 295	Carbonate 240	Non-carbonate	55
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	Oxygen Absorbed	0.15
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals Iron:	0.10	Other metals absent	

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	(1 day at 37°C. 0 per ml. Present in	2 days at 37°C. 0 per ml. Absent from	3 days at 20°C. 0 per ml. Probable number.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl.welchii Reaction ...	- ml.	100 ml	0

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."

"Analysis of three Samples of Treated Water taken on 8th June, 1951

	1.	2.	3.
This sample contains per million parts:-			
Total Solids dried at 180°C.	420.00	420.00	420.00
Suspended Matter	absent	absent	absent
Chlorides as chlorine	28.40	28.40	28.40
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrate	absent	absent	absent
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrite	absent	0.008	0.008
Free Ammonia	0.024	0.008	0.028
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.144	0.008	0.028
Temporary Hardness	235.00	230.00	230.00
Permanent Hardness	115.00	115.00	110.00
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. @ 80°F. from N/80 $KMnO_4$	0.16	0.16	0.16
pH value	7.10	7.10	7.10
Appearance	clear and bright in all 3		
Odour	none	none	none
Taste & Colour	normal	normal	normal
Heavy Metals	absent	absent	absent
Free Chlorine	absent	absent	absent
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 21°C. in 72 hrs.	2	0	3
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 37°C. in 24 hrs.	1	0	0
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 37°C. in 48 hrs.	28	1	0
Coli-aerogenes count per 100 mls. at 37°C. in 48 hrs.	0	0	0
Faecal coli count per 100 mls. at 44°C. in 48 hrs.	0	0	0
Bacillus Coli (Presumptive)	absent in 100 mils	100 mils	100 mils

At the time of sampling these three waters were of satisfactory bacterial and chemical quality for human consumption, domestic use and dairy purposes."

Drainage and Sewerage

It has been realised for some considerable time that the method of sewage disposal by settlement and broad irrigation with a plant designed to deal with a daily dry weather flow of some .75 million gallons, and actually having to cope with approximately 2.25 millions, cannot be other than unsatisfactory, resulting in an effluent unacceptable by modern standards, and to remedy this state of affairs work has proceeded during the year on the new disposal plant.

In the first half of 1951 much of this labour was of a general and preparatory nature on site roads, drainage, labour hostel and site offices, but by the year's end the following specific works were in hand :-

Grit Channels: Approach channels and two grit channels completed and all reinforcement in position for the remaining two grit channels. Comminutor beds prepared.

Storm Water Tanks: All walls practically completed: work remains on the concreting of floors.

Effluent Culvert: Completed.

Sludge Pumping Station: Sub-structure walls completed and motor room floor concreted.

The above units of the total work involved are those necessary to afford partial treatment of the sewage from the eastern trunk sewer, and it is hoped to put it into operation before the end of 1952.

Sedimentation Tanks: Excavation of three tanks completed and sealing coats laid to two tanks. Sludge drain laid and concreted.

Longthorpe and part of Werrington, both districts on the extreme periphery of the City, continue to be without proper drainage and sewerage.

Closet Accommodation at 31st December, 1951.

(a)	Number of middens	15
(b)	Number of closets attached to them	15
(c)	Number of pail closets	229
(d)	Number of fresh water closets	15,833
(e)	Number of houses on water carriage system	14,890
(f)	Number of conversions during 1951 (from pail to water closets)	4

Public Cleansing and Scavenging.

Approximately 18,000 movable ashbins are in use in the City. There are no dry ashpits.

There has been no alteration in collection, transport, disposal, or in plant and equipment used during the year.

Public Swimming Pool

The Corporation's open air swimming pool continued to be well patronised, not only by the general public but by organised classes from neighbouring schools during the season, which, in 1951, lasted for the twenty weeks from 28th April to 16th September, during which period 74,000 bathers and 21,000 spectators paid for admission.

The water in the pool is treated by pressure filtration and "Break Point" chlorination, the capacity of the large pool is 360,000 gallons and of the children's pool 29,000 and the rate of turnover of the bath water is six hourly, during opening hours.

Samples of pool water are regularly sent for chemical and bacteriological examination and appended are two reports, typical of those received from the Council's analyst during the year.

"These samples contain per million parts:-	1st June, 1951	31st July, 1951
Total Solids dried at 180°C.	570.00	840.00
Suspended Matter	absent	absent
Chlorides as chlorine	142.00	308.90
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrate	absent	4.00
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrite	absent	absent
Free Ammonia	0.024	0.104
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.112	0.328
Temporary Hardness	95.00	45.00
Permanent Hardness	130.00	295.00
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. @ 80°F. from N/80 $KMnO_4$	0.00	0.88
pH value	7.30	6.90
Appearance	clear and bright in both	
Odour	none	none
Taste & Colour	normal	normal
Heavy Metals	absent	absent
Free Chlorine	0.150	0.125
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 21°C. in 72 hrs.	1	3
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 37°C. in 24 hrs.	0	0
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 37°C. in 48 hrs.	1	0
Coli—aerogenes count per 100 mls. at 37°C. in 48 hrs.	0	0
Faecal coli count per 100 mls. at 44°C. in 48 hrs.	0	0
Bacillus Coli (Presumptive) absent in	100 mils	100 mils

At the time of sampling this water was of satisfactory bacterial and chemical quality for use in the swimming pool."

Not unnaturally the River Nene continues to be a popular rendezvous for swimmers of all ages but, although no cases of disease have been attributed to this practice (within the knowledge of the Health Department), it must be regarded as undesirable because of the certain pollution of the waters of this slowly-flowing stream.

Public Baths

The City Council's 24 slipper baths (18 for males and 6 for females) still serve a most useful purpose and about 635 males and 195 females attended weekly throughout the year. During 1950 the average weekly attendance was approximately 1,000 persons but the decreased attendance during 1951 is by no means a cause for regret but rather a reason for satisfaction, as it is not unfair to infer that housing progress in the City means that so many more families can now enjoy baths in their own homes.

Rainfall for 1951

The total rainfall for the year was 25.93 inches compared with an average annual fall of 21.47 inches, over the period for which records are available. The first five months of the year each individually exceeded the average figure for the same months in preceding years and rain in this period was over 60% of the annual total fall.

By one of those unfortunate ironies of fate, which always fail to amuse, of a total rainfall for the month of August of 3.93 inches, 1.76 inches fell on Bank Holiday Monday and substantially contributed to August's inglorious record of being the wettest month of the year and an unfortunate successor to July, the dryest month of 1951, with a rainfall deficit of 1.59 inches below average.

The undermentioned matters are dealt with in the Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector :

Camping Sites	Fairgrounds
Disinfection of Premises	Factories Act, 1937
Disinfestation of Premises	Food & Drugs Acts, 1938-49
Common Lodging Houses	Meat & Food Inspection
Canal Boats	Prevention of Damage by Pests Act,1949.
Offensive Trades	Outworkers

HEALTH EDUCATION: CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN AND EXHIBITION

A Clean Food Week was held in Peterborough during the month of June, the City Council co-operating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry of Food in this venture.

From the 11th to 15th June a Clean Food Exhibition, to which admission was free, was held in the Town Hall, with stalls demonstrating:-

Ideal practice, on the part of shopkeepers, food distributors and the general public, in the hygienic handling and management of foodstuffs.

How food poisoning occurs, and its prevention.

The duties of a Local Authority in the supervision of foodstuffs, and in matters of public health and environmental hygiene.

Good practice in the butchery business.

What can be done in the average home kitchen to maintain satisfactory hygiene.

The contrast between hygienic standards in the production and distribution of milk in 1901 and 1951.

The uses of electricity and gas in maintaining hygienic standards and thus preventing food-borne disease.

Rodent control methods.

Ideal practice in ice-cream production.

The advantages of the use of detergents in maintaining high standards of cleanliness, particularly in hard water districts.

In addition to these permanent exhibits, the following films were shown at frequent intervals in the Municipal buildings :- "Another Case of Food Poisoning", "House Fly", "Town Rat", "Killing the Farm Rat" and "The Pied Piper". A "Brains Trust", open to the general public, was also held, as well as a discussion on Food Hygiene, with an invited audience of food handlers, and informative brochures were issued free of charge to the public attending.

Much helpful co-operation was received from many organisations and firms in the City, and special parties of senior girls attended the Exhibition from certain schools. Despite this, however, and no lack of publicity the total attendance did not reach the figure of 1,300 (from a City with a population of over 50,000 !) and your then Medical Officer of Health has left it on record that he feared that the whole Clean Food Campaign had largely been a matter of preaching to the converted.

Dogs in Food Premises

Towards the end of the year the City Council authorised the issue, to premises from which food is sold, of placards over the signature of the Medical Officer of Health requesting the general public not to bring dogs into such places. As at that time the Health Department was in the charge of a temporary Medical Officer only, further action was not taken during the year.

Byelaws made under Food and Drugs Act, 1938: Section 15.

These byelaws, effective in the City since 3rd July, 1950, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly practices and conditions in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air did not have to be enforced by statutory action during 1951, but the Sanitary Department was most active in their application by informal means, particularly in the public market, resulting in much higher hygienic standards than had previously been attainable.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948: SECTION 47.

One case was dealt with under the above enactment during the year, the person concerned being a man, 84 years of age, living alone in most insanitary conditions, suffering from ill health, and having no near relatives. Information to this effect was laid by a third party. Attempts to inspect the living premises proved abortive and eventually a warrant had to be obtained, on which authority it was ascertained that the information laid was no exaggeration. The old man could not be persuaded either to attend a doctor or to enter hospital, and due notice having been given, application was made to the Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an order under Section 47 (3) of the National Assistance Act, 1948. This was granted for a period not exceeding two months and the man was removed without difficulty to the Peterborough Memorial Hospital, and after a period of medical and nursing care and attention was transferred to St.John's Close (Part III accommodation). There he settled down well and remained until his death, which occurred some eight months after the granting of the removal order.

It was not necessary in this case to apply for extensions of the original court order as the party concerned was content to remain where he was.

Other cases were investigated during the course of the year but none warranted action under this legislation. Such border-line cases, coming to the notice of the Health Department, are kept under periodic review in case a deterioration of conditions should occur at a later date. These cases provide much food for thought on the application of Section 47 (i) of the Act which reads :

" 47 (i) The following provisions of this section shall have effect for the purposes of securing the necessary care and attention for persons who -

(a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and

(b) are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention."

It will be noted that an essential pre-requisite for action under these powers is that the person concerned must be living in insanitary conditions: it is not sufficient that they only fulfil all other requirements. Experience in the City has shown, however, that a high proportion of cases referred for investigation can unquestionably be said to require a degree of care and attention which they are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from others, yet their living conditions are not insanitary. Particularly in the cases of elderly females living by themselves there is obvious evidence, on occasions, of a "house-proud" attitude towards their homes, but the old ladies themselves may be inadequately nourished, being often dependent on the goodwill of neighbours for almost all hot or cooked meals; in cold weather, insufficiently clad, and prone to deal with fire and gas in a way which invites risk of serious trouble. Suggestions regarding

a Home Help are usually not entertained on the grounds of expense, or if accepted in the first instance are often succeeded by second-thoughts, particularly by the "house-proud" who cannot realise that the time has come when they cannot look after themselves as they used to do, and the Home Help is not admitted.

Should such cases not fall into a category which can be dealt with under the Lunacy Acts, even although there is usually some degree of senile mental deterioration present, there is nothing that can be done to assist them in the frequent absence of their own co-operation. One can only wait for the time when insanitary conditions prevail because of increasing frailty, or mental deterioration reaches a stage to warrant certification.

It would appear that there is scope for the amendment of the National Assistance Act, 1948: Section 47 (i) to make it possible for a Sanitary Authority to act in anticipation of insanitary living conditions and not to be obliged to wait until some old person is living in squalor before being enabled to take action, particularly when the deterioration in environmental state is the result of advancing years and bodily frailty, and often entirely foreign to the true nature of the person concerned. In advocating such an alteration of the existing law one must be mindful of proper safeguards for the liberty of the subject, but one cannot think that, in those cases which spring to mind at the time of writing, this would be improperly interfered with. A rather more telling point might perhaps be the fact that Hospital and Part III accommodation are already strained to the utmost, but with an ever-increasing number of old persons in the population it is inevitable that this accommodation increase to meet the needs with which it is faced and the extra burdens which might arise from a change in the Act should be easily absorbed.

C I T Y O F P E T E R B O R O U G H

II

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

C H I E F S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

FOR THE YEAR
1951

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

STAFF 1951

Chief Sanitary Inspector

J. HALL, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E., Cert.R. San.I.

Sanitary Inspectors

L. DEARDEN, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E., Cert.R. San.I.

P. LANGSTON, M.S.I.A., Cert.R. San.I.

P.J. OAKLEY, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.
(Until 22nd October, 1951)

Assistant Inspector

A.N. VENTERS.

Clerks.

Miss B. Bingham.

A. Morton.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.
1 9 5 1

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Town Hall,
Peterborough.
1952.

To The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen
and Councillors of the City of Peterborough.

Mr.Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my third Annual Report, this for the Year 1951.

From the following pages it will be seen that the work of the Department has, as was forecast last year, been mainly concerned with the investigation of complaints. The number of complaints has trebled itself during the last three years. This, of course, is exclusive of complaints of rat infestations. The pre-occupation with answering complaints means that it is impossible for your staff to do very much routine inspection of premises, which, in my opinion, is not a good thing. These of course include, canteens, cafe kitchens, snack bars, factories, workplaces, etc.

The number of caravans in the City has increased enormously this year, as they are the only method of housing the people to satisfy the increase of labour demanded by the expanding industries of Peterborough.

One feature of the present condition is the reconditioning of moderate cottage class property by owner-occupiers. This is property which is no longer possible to let at an economical rent and is being sold as soon as vacant posession can be obtained. Thus we see a widening of the gap between property, which can be sold in this way, and property which was not quite good enough; this latter is now becoming derelict. There are still a few slum clearance houses not fit for licensing under Defence Regulations 68AA occupied by "squatters".

So far as meat inspection is concerned the number of animals slaughtered and inspected has increased by at least 25%. This increase, I understand, will most likely continue as the local slaughterhouse has been upgraded by the Ministry of Food, and means that slaughtering is carried out for areas other than Peterborough and district.

As you are aware, a Clean Food Exhibition was held at the beginning of June in the Town Hall. The public attended to the extent of 1,200, the majority of these were people engaged in the food handling trades. I would like to thank the Peterborough Chamber of Trade, the Gas and Electricity Boards, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for their help, especially this Ministry's representatives, Messrs. Mead and Chapman.

Your Council was one of the few local authorities who carried out experiments for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the field trials of a new rat poison .... Warfarin. Although this took up a certain amount of time, we have since reaped the benefit by being in the position to do treatments using this new substance immediately it was released for general use.

In November Doctor Crawshaw left Peterborough. He will be missed as someone whose commonsense and good judgement I very much appreciated.

I should like to thank the Chairman and the members of the Public Health Committee for their support, and the members of the staff for their loyal help.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

J. HALL.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS.

Complaints of defects and nuisances numbered 429 (excluding rat complaints). Very little work was outstanding at the end of the year. It was necessary to serve 6 statutory notices to enforce compliance with previous Informal Notices and letters sent. The remainder of the work was completed by informal action.

477 Houses were inspected for which it was necessary to make 853 visits.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Nuisances abated and sanitary defects remedied totalled 640. I give below an abridged list.

Drains relaid, repaired, cleansed, etc	202
W.C.s repaired, renewed or reconstructed	54
Roofs repaired, rain-water pipes renewed, etc	106
Chimney stacks rebuilt, ext. walls rebuilt and repaired, interior repairs to walls	39
Woodwork repaired (floors, windows, doors, etc.)....	83
Water laid on inside house	9
New sinks fixed, waste pipes refitted, etc	15
Accumulations of refuse and manure removed	10
Miscellaneous	122

The amount of drainage work remains high because of the large number of complaints of rat infestations which are found to be caused by defective drains.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

As mentioned in my previous reports this section of the Public Health Act is causing a large amount of work. There are at present 48 sites in the City accommodating 156 caravans, to which 120 visits were paid, and when the proposed Municipal caravan site is completed, I hope these many scattered sites will not be necessary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disinfection of bedding is now carried out in the home by the use of formaldehyde spray. It is not possible to give a reliable list of articles actually disinfected, but I give below an analysis of the work done.

Number of rooms disinfected for

Infectious disease	36
Tuberculosis	52

For non-notifiable diseases

Rooms	3

In addition to the above, disinfections have been carried out at the hospitals.

INFESTATIONS.

Taken on the whole the houses of the City are not heavily infested with insect vermin but sporadic cases do occur; most of these are dealt with by the tenants or landlords.

5 Houses were disinfested by owners employing private tradesmen.

19 Houses were disinfested by this Department, for which charges on a time and materials basis were made. There were no Council houses disinfested.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are now 2 Common Lodging Houses registered in the City, one having closed. 44 inspections were made. The total number of beds available is 44.

Work carried out is as follows :-

Limewashed	5
Sanitary defects remedied..	2
Repairs and redecorations..	2
Verbal cautions	5

CANAL BOATS.

No visits have been paid to any Canal Boats as the only traffic on the river at present is boats used for the maintenance of its banks.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is now only one type of offensive trade in Peterborough: that of Rag and Bone Merchant.

KNACKERS YARDS.

The position is the same as last year, there being one Knackers Yard in the City which deals with animals not intended for human consumption. There is also a depot for a firm operating in another town which collects and disposes of all the condemned meat from the slaughter-houses after it has been dyed.

FAIRGROUNDS.

Inspections were made at the Fairground during the period of the fairs to ensure that the vans were provided with proper sanitation and water supply. The premises at which food was sold, or given away as prizes, received the Department's attention.

PROVISION OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

All the premises which are licensed at the Brewster Sessions have been visited at irregular intervals during the year, and the policy of gradually raising the level of the sanitary accommodation provided at certain of these premises continues.

FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are 39 Shops on the register. A mobile van operates from one of the above-mentioned shops.

Visits paid	37
New ceilings	2
Hot and cold water supply installed	1
Redecoration	3

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-49.

BAKEHOUSES. There are 37 Bakehouses in the City of which 21 are situated at the rear of shops selling the products. 64 visits were paid to these premises. 5 letters were sent and 1 verbal caution given with regard to defaults. The following improvements were carried out :-

Limewashed or redecorated	2
Repairs	6
New ovens fitted	1
Hot and cold water installed ...	3
New machinery installed	2
Alterations	1

ICE-CREAM PREMISES, "MAKING-UP" PREMISES RESTAURANT AND CAFE KITCHENS.

ICE-CREAM. Of the 6 manufacturers of Ice-cream in the City 3 heat treat their product and 3 use a Cold Mix. 133 premises retail Ice-cream and 196 inspections were made during the year. 49 samples were taken with the following results :- Grade I - 19; Grade II - 12; Grade III - 8; Grade IV - 10. Many of the Grade III and IV samples were taken when tracing defects after unsatisfactory samples. 3 samples of ingredients were taken after a suspected case of food poisoning which proved to be nausea caused by excessive flavouring.

"MAKING-UP" PREMISES. There are 45 premises in the City to which 71 visits were paid. 3 Confirmatory letters were sent and the following works were carried out :-

Limewashed or redecorated	3
New sink installed	1
Hot and cold water installed ...	5
W.C. cistern repaired	1
New inspection chamber and gully fitted	1
Verbal caution	1

CAFE & RESTAURANT KITCHENS. 73 visits have been paid to the 50 Kitchens in the City. 4 Kitchens in the City have been redesigned, 2 of which have been rebuilt and extended. 3 Vans are being used as canteens on fixed sites. 9 Confirmatory letters were sent and the following works were carried out :-

Redecorated	6
Repairs	2
Frying range installed	1
Hot and cold water installed ...	2
Extractor fan installed	1
Scullery flue tiled	1
Refrigerator installed	1
Dispenser installed in mobile van	1

CANTEENS. Factory and School Canteens in the City area are visited regularly. A fairly high standard of hygiene and equipment is maintained.

SHOPS. As many Food Shops as possible are inspected. A constant supply of hot water (usually a geyser) with sink and clean towels has been provided in many, but there is still much work to be done.

MARKET. In addition to the fish stalls on the Market, there is now a stall-holder selling made-up products on Wednesdays. These stalls, together with the greengrocery stalls, are visited regularly to ensure their compliance with the food byelaws.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year was: Beasts (including cows) 4,450; Calves 795; Sheep and Lambs 9,307; Pigs 6,855.

The incidence of Cysticercus Bovis in cattle remains approximately as last year. All cases of Generalised T.B. are reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Animal Health Division).

BEEF. (for tuberculosis)	Stones.
19 Beasts	1,068½
56 Cows	2,559½
Beef (forequarters, hinds and part carcases)	334

OTHER CAUSES.

1 Cow	Bruising	40
5 Cows	Dropsy	113
3 Beasts	"	260
5 Cows	Dropsy & Emaciation	170
3 "	Emaciation (Pathological)	85½
4 Beasts	Emaciation "	82¼
1 Cow	Fever & Oedema	38¾
1 Beast	Pneumonia & Pyaemia	33½
2 Cows	Putrefaction & lack of bleeding	117½
2 "	Pyaemia	98½
1 Cow	Septic Metritis	54
2 Cows	Septic Pericarditis	82¾
1 Beast	" "	26¼
Beef (bruised and heated)		104

OFFALS (edible)

Heads & Tongues: 381 (T.B.) 810 stones; 95 (Actinomycosis, Actinobacillosis, Cysticercus Bovis, etc.) 210½ stones.
Lungs: 562 (T.B.) 337 stones; 163 (Pleurisy, etc.) 111½ stones.
Livers: 125 (T.B.) 133 stones; 319 (Distoma) 333½ stones; 78 (Cavernous Angioma) 74 stones; 297 (Abscesses) 330 stones; 13 (Cirrhosis) 21¼ stones; 113 (Fatty, cysts, etc.) 119 stones.
Part Livers: Distoma 20 stones; others 5 stones.
Other Edible Offals: 550½ stones.

SHEEP.

OTHER CAUSES.		Stones.
1 Sheeps carcase.	Decomposition	2½
3 " "	Dropsical & badly bled	12¼
1 " "	Dropsy (General)	6¼
8 " "	Dropsy & Emaciation	28½
5 " "	Emaciation (Pathological)	19½
1 " "	Emaciation & Pneumonia	2½
1 " "	Extensive bruising	3¼
1 " "	Fever & Dropsy	5
1 " "	Gangrenous	6
1 " "	" Pneumonia	5
1 " "	Leukaemia	7
1 " "	Mastitis	3
2 " "	Pyaemia	13
1 " "	Sapraemia	3½
Mutton (bruised, etc.)		5¾

OFFALS.

Livers: 234 (Distoma) 35½ stones; 91 (other Parasites) 14 stones; others 13 stones.
Other Edible Offals: 14½ stones.

PIGS. (for tuberculosis)		Stones.
11 Pigs carcases		$144\frac{1}{2}$

OTHER CAUSES.

1 Pigs carcase.	Acute Enteritis & Decomposition	19
1 " "	Acute Nephritis	$20\frac{1}{4}$
2 " "	Acute Pleurisy & Fever	$10\frac{1}{2}$
1 " "	Acute Inflammation	$2\frac{1}{2}$
4 " "	Decomposition	$26\frac{3}{4}$
1 " "	Dropsy & Emaciation	18
1 " "	Dropsy & Uraemia	$3\frac{1}{4}$
1 " "	Dropsy	$15\frac{1}{4}$
1 " "	Gangrenous Pneumonia	$8\frac{1}{4}$
1 " "	Immaturity & Emaciation	1
2 " "	Moribund	28
1 " "	Peritonitis & Gangrene	14
1 " "	Pyaemia & Septic Pericarditis	$21\frac{1}{2}$
1 " "	Septicaemia	4
5 " "	Swine Fever	101
Pork (various causes)		$131\frac{3}{4}$

OFFALS (edible)

Head & Tongues: 181 (T.B.) 117 stones.
Various Offals: $77\frac{3}{4}$ stones.

CALVES (for tuberculosis)		Stones.
3 Calves carcases		$10\frac{1}{2}$

OTHER CAUSES.

1 Calves carcase.	Dropsy & Emaciation	$6\frac{1}{2}$
1 " "	" " Enteritis	$3\frac{3}{4}$
1 " "	Emaciation & Immaturity	$1\frac{3}{4}$
2 " "	Immaturity	$3\frac{1}{2}$
1 " "	Pyaemia	7
1 " "	Umbilical Pyaemia	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Various other edible offals		$4\frac{1}{2}$

NOTE: When entire carcase is condemned all the offal is also condemned.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Only slaughtermen actively engaged at the abattoir, bacon factory and knackers yard hold licences with your Authority - a total of 18.

No horses are killed in the City, and no shops retail horseflesh for human consumption.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	3,154	1,296	795	9,307	6,855
Number inspected.	3,154	1,296	795	9,307	6,855
All diseases except T.B. Whole carcases condemned.	9	22	7	28	24
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	626	479	8	413	202
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	20.13%	38.66%	1.89%	4.74%	3.30%
T.B. only. Whole carcases condemned.	19	56	3	-	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	343	544	-	-	177
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	11.48%	46.30%	.38%	-	2.74%

OTHER FOODS.

246 requests were received during the year which resulted in 894 Condemnation Notes being issued covering 7,217 tins of food and 2 tons 17 cwt. 1½ st. of other foodstuffs. The variety of goods condemned is very great and consists of similar food as mentioned in previous Annual Reports.

FOOD SAMPLING.

57 Formal and 31 Informal Samples were obtained and submitted to the Public Analyst for his report as follows :-

Nature of Sample	Formal.	Informal.	TOTAL.
Milk	46	-	46
Lemon Cheese	1	-	1
Strawberry Jam	1	-	1
Self Raising Flour	1	-	1
Coffee	1	-	1
Butter	1	1	2
Beef Sausage	1	-	1
Cooking Fat	1	-	1
Vinegar	1	-	1
Ice-Cream	2	18	20
Margarine	1	-	1
Ice-Cream Powder	-	1	1
Cherries in Syrup	-	1	1
Ground Almonds	-	1	1
Chicken Noodle Soup	-	1	1
Mincemeat	-	1	1
Dried Fruit & Sugar	-	1	1
Medicine to Prescription	-	6	6
	57	31	88

With the exception of milk they were all genuine.

The average composition of the milks gave 3.67% Fat and 8.86% Solids-not-Fat. This average remains fairly steady throughout the years.

DEFICIENCIES:

Sample No.	Article.	Adulteration or Other Irregularity.	Action Taken.
504	Milk	Fat Deficient 0.0%	Reported to Public Health Committee, and Town Clerk requested to write a warning letter to the producer.

13 Samples of Milk were taken for microscopic and biological examination and were found to be satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED & STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

There are three registered premises at which milk is treated. Two of these premises also sell farm bottled T.T. milk and at two milk not produced on the premises is also bottled. This dual use of the premises is provided for in the Regulations.

59 Samples of milk were taken and it was found that in eight cases the sample failed the methylene blue test and in two the phosphatase test. Bacillus Coli was found in twenty-seven samples. The failure of the last test was for many years considered to indicate dirty milk and eventually few samples contained Bacillus Coli but with the cessation of its employment as a legal standard the number of samples containing Bacillus Coli has increased.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :-

   (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 447

   (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose 853

   (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-heading (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 2

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 12

   (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 7

   (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 376

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice:-

   Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 305

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-

   Statutory Notices served under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 3

   Number of houses demolished which were condemned pre-war and in which "squatters" had been living 0

There are quite a number of dwelling-houses in the City which are completely unfit and are just squalid slums, but owing to the housing shortage very little can be done to alleviate this.

DEFENCE OF THE REALM REGULATION 68AA

17 Slum Clearance Houses were licensed under Defence Regulations 68AA for temporary occupation.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Ideally every factory should be regularly inspected but, unfortunately, because of the amount of other work to be done, it is possible to visit only on complaint, and on notice from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Number of Factories on register (Mechanical 182, Non-Mechanical 44)	226
Number of inspections	81
Notices from H.M. Inspector of Factories :-	
Re (a) New Factories	5
(b) Defaults	7
(c) Deletions	5
(d) Change of Occupier	11
Letters sent	9

Defaults remedied :-

Alterations to sanitary accommodation and drainage system..	1
Defective W.C.s. repaired	3
Premises and sanitary conveniences cleansed and redecorated	2
Provision of chemical closets	3
Roof and plaster repaired	1
W.C.s., urinals and auto-flush to urinal	5
Intervening ventilated space provided/extractor fan provided	4

Building Sites :-

11 main sites were visited regularly.

OUTWORKERS.

Lists of Outworkers are received from employers and other authorities of outworkers residing in the District. All the addresses in the City area are visited.

Addresses of Outworkers :

Received from other Councils ...	2
Forwarded to other Councils	6
Received from employers	65

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.
REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

NAME OF LOCAL AUTHORITY City of Peterborough.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY Soke of Peterborough.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	Total
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District.	15	14,942	89	2,186	17,232
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) Nil	158	5	56	219
	(b) 15	665	-	237	917
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	Major -	N	I	L	-
	Minor 8	180	7	50	245
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice.	-	N	I	L	-
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority.	8	180	2	50	240
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4 :- (1) Treatment	-	N	I	L	-
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	-	N	I	L	-
VII. Number of cases in which default was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4.	-	N	I	L	-
VIII. Legal Proceedings	-	N	I	L	-

IX. Number of 'block' control schemes carried out ..NIL.....